

FUTURE OF AMERICA AS WELLS SEES IT

Brilliant English Novelist Making Flying Tour of United States.

DISCUSSES MANY THINGS

Edgar, Allen Poe Sadly Underestimated Here, He Says.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, May 20.—In his entertaining occupation of scientifically examining the eggs and crabs of the universe, H. G. Wells, the brilliant English novelist, has found opportunity to make a flying tour of the United States for the purpose of writing a series of articles on "The Future in America," for Harper's Magazine.

Mr. Wells gave yesterday the first interview in this country. Quick in thought, felicitous in conversation, and genial in manner, he is the nation's first of the gloomy and mythical dreamer many have deemed him.

Under forty years of age, he is still a slender and delicate man, with a broad brow and a face full of reflection. His clear blue eyes gleam as he talks. He is dressed in a simple, well-cut suit, and his manner is that of a quiet, unostentatious man of genius that he is.

As Mr. Wells leaned back comfortably in his deep arm-chair, his appearance belied the current stories of ill health. His face was bronzed, and his figure had an appearance of vigor and wiry strength. It was suggested that this might have been the beneficial result of the American climate.

New York Known Abroad.

"Perhaps it is," he said. "I have had a good time here—a very good time. Quite an enlightening one, too. You know this is my first visit to this country. I wanted to see the people and the country, and to see what they were like. I think I have done so, as far as my time would allow.

"Of course, New York is known throughout Europe, and for an Englishman not to know it is quite as bad as not knowing the other great capitals of the world."

"What has impressed you most about the city, Mr. Wells?"

"Well, that is hard to say. There are so many things in my mind about it. Possibly my first impression was the most vivid. This was the marvelous clearness of the atmosphere. I noted it as I was coming up the bay on my arrival from England. It was astonishing.

"Of course, this comes from the enforced use of artificial light, certainly. But it is a very good thing. The regulations in the matter must be well-kept perfect. Generally speaking, I had rather hazy ideas as to the city and people when I landed. I have been very much impressed with everything I have seen."

"And the architecture, Mr. Wells—the huge utilitarian cigar boxes, the altars of commercialism, as they have been called—of course, you will condemn us in that respect?"

He leaned forward on the arm of his chair and laughed amusedly.

"Now, do you know," he replied, "there is not so much to condemn as one would think from your question. In fact, there are things to admire. When I came up the bay on the ship and looked at the city, I thought it resembled a place where Titan children had been playing with blocks."

"But last night I looked at the up-town Flatiron—I think it is on Forty-second Street—and I thought that was graceful in its line. Then I walked down to the other Flatiron on Twenty-third Street. It is not at all unhandsome as you approach it from the sharp end. But standing close beside it, the upward view is dreadful."

American Architecture.

"I noticed a very pretty thing about your American architecture. You are sure and thorough in the country. It was the presence on almost every house of little piazzas. I believe you call them, 'porches by pillars.' Its effect is charming."

"Are you among the great number of Englishmen who visit us who condemn our commercialism, our utilitarianism, and our wild rush for wealth?" Mr. Wells was asked.

He shook his head with a faint introspective smile.

"No, I cannot say that I do," he replied. "It is a condition of things in nature in a young country and among a rapidly growing people."

"But how long will this continue? How long will it be before the country has a leisure class—a class of absolutely idle people, who will become, in fact, our aristocracy?"

"I do not see that expression, 'leisure class,' was the rapid reply as he lifted his head with a quick flashing glance. "You have a leisure class here now, if you choose to call it that. But why should there be a 'leisure class'?"

"One thing that astonishes me in this connection is that your wealthy women take so little interest in politics, when they might do so much. I do not see why."

"Possibly because of the indolent manner of the queer character of many of the politicians," was suggested.

"That may be so," he replied thoughtfully, "but, of course, I am not competent to speak upon their own reasons. Women doubtless have their own great work in other directions. It is quietly done, but it is great nevertheless. There are many hard workers among them in behalf of the poor."

"Miss Jane Addams in Chicago, among wanderers with the full house, doing good work in other directions. It is quietly done, but it is great nevertheless. There are many hard workers among them in behalf of the poor."

"Present Day Literature.

The topic then turned upon present-day literature and the literature of the future.

"You have a good class of writers over here, of which we seldom or never hear in England," Mr. Wells remarked, handing a copy of a recently published novel. "I believe that many of them are upon the right track. The most interesting literature of the present is that which deals with the future—this, that the kind that has recently appeared in several magazines."

"Do you mean the muck-rake stories, as 'President Roosevelt' calls them?"

"Well, I won't say that," replied Mr. Wells, slowly. "I mean more particularly the stories which deal with the future and the growing commercial problems, and enterprises—stories which stimulate thought and ambition."

"You seem to believe, Mr. Wells, that the special work of genius is to create something worth while out of everyday materials?"

"Exactly. There are plenty of impressive truths, plenty of types, and



H. G. WELLS.

numberless conditions, even in this city, which may be written of most interestingly by the right person.

"The way to it is to be a Dickens," he said. "I should say you, decidedly. There are many young American authors who are coming to the front in that line. I have enjoyed some of their stories hugely."

"But about that type of literature born of genius. Are you ever to have a Shakespeare, a Milton or a Goethe?"

"Oh, yes," replied Mr. Wells. "I believe that the time will come, but I cannot venture to guess how soon."

"But are not great poets like these the result of centuries of heredity? Do they not come from the non-commercial mental trend, of that leisure class of which we spoke?"

"Position of Poe.

"Not necessarily. Shakespeare was a poor man who wrote for his bread; Milton, as every one knows, was not only poor, but blind as well; Burns was a ploughman, and many other English writers, novelists as well as poets, were poor men. I believe that when the poet is born, he will work out his destiny on that line, whatever his fate or his fortune may be."

"You have had many poor men over here who have been great writers as long as they live. Why, half of our politicians do not begin to cut their eye teeth in that way, and they are away past forty. I believe that making a man of letters extends much beyond Prof. Osler's figure. Down on the east side I saw many men over sixty at work."

"By no means," laughed Mr. Wells. "A day laborer might not be of much use, but many men are bright mentally as long as they live. Why, half of our politicians do not begin to cut their eye teeth in that way, and they are away past forty. I believe that making a man of letters extends much beyond Prof. Osler's figure. Down on the east side I saw many men over sixty at work."

"Interplanetary Communication.

Referring to the works of imagination in the future, Mr. Wells said that, in his belief, interplanetary communication would ever be established.

"Why not?" he replied quickly. "Can we not in this age of science and invention, in a future age, do what we are doing now? I am in a talk with a noted scientist in Boston I was shown things and told things about Mars and other planets. I believe that communication with the planets is a matter of time. The mere thought of communication with the planets is a matter of time. The mere thought of communication with the planets is a matter of time."

"But what of the future of New York City?" he was asked. "That is what we are most interested in."

"Again came that hearty, cheery laugh. "That is the way with all the newspapers of your large cities. In New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and other places, they seem to think themselves the only ones."

"In reply to your question, I would say that I believe New York will spread on all sides, and that it will be the inevitable result of vastly increased transit facilities. Your over-crowded centers will lose much of their character and the city will, of course, be healthier and more pleasant. How soon the spreading-out process will take place will, of course, depend upon the climate of Mr. Wells' visit to this country is to make preparation for the publication of his latest novel, 'The Days of the Comet,' by the Century Company."

"The Future of New York.

"That is the way with all the newspapers of your large cities. In New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and other places, they seem to think themselves the only ones."

"In reply to your question, I would say that I believe New York will spread on all sides, and that it will be the inevitable result of vastly increased transit facilities. Your over-crowded centers will lose much of their character and the city will, of course, be healthier and more pleasant. How soon the spreading-out process will take place will, of course, depend upon the climate of Mr. Wells' visit to this country is to make preparation for the publication of his latest novel, 'The Days of the Comet,' by the Century Company."

"The Future of New York.

"That is the way with all the newspapers of your large cities. In New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and other places, they seem to think themselves the only ones."

"In reply to your question, I would say that I believe New York will spread on all sides, and that it will be the inevitable result of vastly increased transit facilities. Your over-crowded centers will lose much of their character and the city will, of course, be healthier and more pleasant. How soon the spreading-out process will take place will, of course, depend upon the climate of Mr. Wells' visit to this country is to make preparation for the publication of his latest novel, 'The Days of the Comet,' by the Century Company."

"The Future of New York.

"That is the way with all the newspapers of your large cities. In New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and other places, they seem to think themselves the only ones."

"In reply to your question, I would say that I believe New York will spread on all sides, and that it will be the inevitable result of vastly increased transit facilities. Your over-crowded centers will lose much of their character and the city will, of course, be healthier and more pleasant. How soon the spreading-out process will take place will, of course, depend upon the climate of Mr. Wells' visit to this country is to make preparation for the publication of his latest novel, 'The Days of the Comet,' by the Century Company."

"The Future of New York.

"That is the way with all the newspapers of your large cities. In New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and other places, they seem to think themselves the only ones."

"In reply to your question, I would say that I believe New York will spread on all sides, and that it will be the inevitable result of vastly increased transit facilities. Your over-crowded centers will lose much of their character and the city will, of course, be healthier and more pleasant. How soon the spreading-out process will take place will, of course, depend upon the climate of Mr. Wells' visit to this country is to make preparation for the publication of his latest novel, 'The Days of the Comet,' by the Century Company."

"The Future of New York.

"That is the way with all the newspapers of your large cities. In New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and other places, they seem to think themselves the only ones."

"In reply to your question, I would say that I believe New York will spread on all sides, and that it will be the inevitable result of vastly increased transit facilities. Your over-crowded centers will lose much of their character and the city will, of course, be healthier and more pleasant. How soon the spreading-out process will take place will, of course, depend upon the climate of Mr. Wells' visit to this country is to make preparation for the publication of his latest novel, 'The Days of the Comet,' by the Century Company."

"The Future of New York.

PATHETIC CASE AT THE RETREAT

Little Malcomb Hobson is Taken to Hospital Fearfully Scalded.

STANDS PAIN LIKE A HERO

Was to Have Undergone An Operation This Week for An Abscess.

A pathetic case came to light at the Retreat for the Sick near midnight Saturday. Little Malcomb Matthews Hobson, aged twenty-one months, and a son of Mr. A. M. Hobson, an iron worker who lives at 608 China Street, was fearfully burned about the face, chest and arms by spilling a pail of scalding hot water upon himself.

The little fellow has suffered all his life with an ulcerated gland in his neck, and had been taken by his mother to Hancock, about twenty miles from Richmond, in order that he might receive enough strength to be operated upon. Dr. J. W. Henson has had the case in charge, and had about decided to operate at the middle of this week, when the unfortunate accident occurred.

Surfaced Agonies.

Saturday afternoon the child had been left by his mother out in the garden picking flowers, but while she took her eyes off of him for a minute he crept into the house, and reaching up on a table where a bucket of scalding water had been left, pulled its contents down upon his head.

His screams brought the mother into the room, who was horrified to see her little babe writhing in agony on the floor. Such relief as possible was given at once, and the child was taken to the hospital, where a bucket of scalding water had been left, pulled its contents down upon his head.

That night the doctors thought there was little hope for recovery, but during yesterday the child rallied considerably. Last night Mr. Hobson took a Times-Dispatch reporter into the sick room, where the poor little sufferer was trying to subdue its means to the crooning of the mother.

The mother, who is a devoted and loving woman, showed that he was standing a man's pain with a man's heroism. The baby's pulse was very high last night, but the doctor in charge says that there is a chance for recovery.

STOCK EXCHANGE GIVES INDIAN PRINCE BIG FRIGHT

Maharaja Says It Reminds Him of a Panic—Elevator Drop Makes Him Smile—Visits Hanover Bank.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, May 20.—Gaeckwar, Maharaja of Baroda, invaded Wall Street Saturday. The weather was as fine and clear as the Maharaja's mind. He had been to the city for a morning of sightseeing. He put on his frock coat and high hat and accompanied by his dutiful private secretary and two white men, got into a closed carriage at the Waldorf-Astoria and drove down to Wall Street.

The party reached the Stock Exchange shortly after 11 o'clock. They were received by Secretary Burnham, of the Exchange, and conducted over the building. The Maharaja expressed his admiration continually. He said that he did not know of anything abroad which could be compared with the Exchange.

When he was asked to the visitors' gallery, he was quick to reply. The room, however, intended to live up to its reputation. The brokers jumped up from the benches, threw down their magazines and crowded madly around the Copper, Pennsylvania, Reading and Union Pacific posts. They shouted hoarsely and waved their arms in the air, and the street was packed with a safe distance from the market. The Maharaja looked disquieted and feared that there must be a panic in progress.

When he went down again to his carriage the Maharaja had an even more strenuous time. His arrival has been duly heralded, and the street was packed with messengers, runners, clerks and aiders. Neither carriages nor pedestrians could get through until the mounted policemen cleared a lane.

Up this lane the Maharaja was driven as far as the Hanover National Bank, at Nassau and Pine Streets. Here he went in.

business only was 201,743,766, and commercial messages 4,474,663.

SEEK THE NORTH POLE IN A DIRIGIBLE BALLOON

(By Associated Press.)

PARIS, May 20.—Walter Wellman, the American who endeavors to reach the North Pole by means of a dirigible balloon, has announced that he intends to begin his ascent on the very spot where Andre inflated his balloon. "The first section of his party, under Major Hersey, will leave Paris in a few days, rendezvousing at Tromsø, until June 1st, and then proceed on the Arctic steamer Fridtjof to Spitzbergen, where Major Hersey will direct the construction of the balloon shed. The balloon shed will be the largest ever constructed, owing to the enormous dimensions of the dirigible machine."

Mr. Wellman will follow June 25th with the balloon and the remainder of his party, including Maxwell Smith, wireless telegraph operator, and will establish a wireless station at Spitzbergen.

Stop at Naval Station.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, May 20.—The cruiser Columbia will make her first stop at the naval station at Guantanamo, Off Cuba, on the morning of June 1st, and will then proceed on the Arctic steamer Fridtjof to Spitzbergen, where Major Hersey will direct the construction of the balloon shed. The balloon shed will be the largest ever constructed, owing to the enormous dimensions of the dirigible machine."

Mr. Wellman will follow June 25th with the balloon and the remainder of his party, including Maxwell Smith, wireless telegraph operator, and will establish a wireless station at Spitzbergen.

Stop at Naval Station.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, May 20.—The cruiser Columbia will make her first stop at the naval station at Guantanamo, Off Cuba, on the morning of June 1st, and will then proceed on the Arctic steamer Fridtjof to Spitzbergen, where Major Hersey will direct the construction of the balloon shed. The balloon shed will be the largest ever constructed, owing to the enormous dimensions of the dirigible machine."

Mr. Wellman will follow June 25th with the balloon and the remainder of his party, including Maxwell Smith, wireless telegraph operator, and will establish a wireless station at Spitzbergen.

Stop at Naval Station.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, May 20.—The cruiser Columbia will make her first stop at the naval station at Guantanamo, Off Cuba, on the morning of June 1st, and will then proceed on the Arctic steamer Fridtjof to Spitzbergen, where Major Hersey will direct the construction of the balloon shed. The balloon shed will be the largest ever constructed, owing to the enormous dimensions of the dirigible machine."

Mr. Wellman will follow June 25th with the balloon and the remainder of his party, including Maxwell Smith, wireless telegraph operator, and will establish a wireless station at Spitzbergen.

BUSINESS MEN AT BANQUET BOARD

Chamber of Commerce Love Feast Dinner Promises to Be Splendid Affair.

WILL DISCUSS LIVE THEMES

Messrs. Leigh, Freeman and Bryan and Others Will Speak. Three Hundred to Attend.

What promises to be a splendid affair of its kind will come off to-morrow night at the Masonic Temple. The banquet of the Chamber of Commerce will be shared by more than three hundred of Richmond's most prominent business leaders, gathered on any similar occasion in the city.

Interest has centered in the event since the first suggestion of the large love-feast some months ago, and up to date the acceptances are well up to the three hundred mark.

The speakers who have been announced for the evening are Mr. Robert G. Leigh, Jr., Mr. John C. Freeman and Mr. Joseph Bryan. Besides these, it is expected that a number of other leading citizens will be called upon to speak on this auspicious occasion.

The menu has been carefully selected, and as is customary in all the undertakings of the Chamber, is the best that can be gotten together on a single evening's bill of enjoyment and good cheer. If the love feast had to depend upon his fare alone for its remarkable qualities, then the men would cause it to be the best of Southern hospitality and cuisine.

The festive hall will be profusely decorated with evergreens, and the national streamers will abound. Rare and beautiful cut flowers will be strewn around with plentiful beds, and unnumbered bouquets of the most popular flowers of the season will be added to the tables. In the arrangement of the tables, things have been so ordered that each guest will be able to look the speakers in the face at the same time have a good chance to see all that is going on. The platform for the speakers will be arranged somewhat as in the Roosevelt banquet.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wesley Pollard, of No. 128 Twentieth Street, have issued cards to their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, to take place in their home Friday evening, May 25th, from 8 to 12 o'clock.

Mr. C. O. Mendenhall, of Christ Church, has returned from Alexandria, where he attended the Episcopal Council.

Captain Southworth, of Twentieth Street, celebrated his fifty-sixth birthday anniversary, May 13th, by entertaining a large circle of friends, who wish him many more such happy celebrations, ice cream and cake was served.

Little Miss Eva Brauer Troxler, who has been threatened with pneumonia, is improving.

Mr. E. L. Ford is home again from Colorado, where he spent some time for his health, and is the guest of his sister, Mrs. R. L. Robinson, of Twenty-first Street.

The Rev. Judson L. Vipperman, of Dallas, N. C., is here visiting his uncle, Mr. J. S. Shelton, of Twenty-sixth Street.

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith recently visited Mr. G. R. Smith in Williamsburg, Va., the home of his father.

Mr. Tilden Smith has returned from Norfolk county, where he visited his mother, and stopped over with his sister, Mrs. J. S. Shelton, on route to his home in Newport News.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Polley entertained quite a number of their friends in their home a few evenings ago for the benefit of Mrs. Polley's band. A handsome shawl, which was donated by Mrs. F. C. Gorman, was raffled off, and Mrs. Watkins was the successful winner. Music, vocal and instrumental, games, recitations and readings were pleasant features of the evening's enjoyment. Refreshments were served in abundance.

Mrs. L. J. Taylor, accompanied by her husband, will leave in a few days for Albemarle county, where they will spend the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Brown have returned from a visit to relatives in Bowling Green, Caroline county.

Mrs. P. J. Reynolds, of New York, who has been visiting for several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Woods, of Twenty-second Street, has returned home.

Mrs. Park Pollard has returned home from a visit to her mother, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Besten, of Richmond.

Mrs. Lella Garner has returned after visiting relatives in the vicinity of Pleasant Hill, where she will spend the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Hinnicutt have moved from Fairmount out near Lakeside. Mr. and Mrs. Hinnicutt moved here several months ago from North Baltimore.

Bettie Prince and daughter have returned to their home in King William county after spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Prince.

Mr. Charles Smith visited friends at "Rose Lawn," near Alton, during the past week.

Miss Mattie Jones, of Ashland, has returned after a very pleasant visit to friends in this vicinity.

Mrs. H. B. Besten, wife of Rev. R. B. Besten, of Twenty-second Street, is very much indisposed, and is confined to her home.

Mr. C. P. Goodall and children will spend a part of the summer with relatives in Buckingham county.

Mr. Percy Brown has returned to Phoenix, Ariz., after visiting relatives here.

Mr. Carter, of Eagle Rock, and Misses Annie and Maude Carter, and his grand children, who have been visiting Mrs. R. S. Terry, daughter of the former, have returned.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Huel Walker is still quite sick at their residence on Twenty-second Street, after an illness of about ten days.

Oliver, Stuart and Elsie, children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clayton, are sick with whooping cough. Elsie, the infant, is quite ill.

Miss Fannie Shinnitt has returned home after a visit to Miss Ayie Hechler.

Miss Elizabeth Crow, of Hanover county, was the guest of Mrs. Hays, of Mosby Street, during the past week.

The Literary and Social Club of young people were delightfully entertained a few evenings ago by the Misses Eubank, of Twenty-first Street. Music and games were indulged in until a late hour, when refreshments were served, and the evening closed with a social gathering.

Mr. and Mrs. Albertson are sick with whooping cough. Elsie, the infant, is quite ill.



WORLD'S RICHEST GIRL TO MARRY

Bertha Krupp, the richest girl in the world, owner of the great gun works, which her father, established at Essen, Germany, is soon to be married. The name of the young man is being kept a secret. Some say he is a prince, others that he is only a poor physician.

Miss Krupp, who holds nearly all of the \$40,000,000 capital stock of the great gun works, has an income of \$2,400,000 a year—about \$6,000 a day. When her mother dies, Bertha and her younger sister, Barbara, will divide \$7,000,000 more between them. In stocks and bonds and property, including iron and coal mines in Westphalia and Spain. Bertha owns the whole town of Essen.

News of the Suburbs.

Fairmount News.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wesley Pollard, of No. 128 Twentieth Street, have issued cards to their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, to take place in their home Friday evening, May 25th, from 8 to 12 o'clock.

Mr. C. O. Mendenhall, of Christ Church, has returned from Alexandria, where he attended the Episcopal Council.

Captain Southworth, of Twentieth Street, celebrated his fifty-sixth birthday anniversary, May 13th, by entertaining a large circle of friends, who wish him many more such happy celebrations, ice cream and cake was served.

Little Miss Eva Brauer Troxler, who has been threatened with pneumonia, is improving.

Mr. E. L. Ford is home again from Colorado, where he spent some time for his health, and is the guest of his sister, Mrs. R. L. Robinson, of Twenty-first Street.

The Rev. Judson L. Vipperman, of Dallas, N. C., is here visiting his uncle, Mr. J. S. Shelton, of Twenty-sixth Street.

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith recently visited Mr. G. R. Smith in Williamsburg, Va., the home of his father.

Mr. Tilden Smith has returned from Norfolk county, where he visited his mother, and stopped over with his sister, Mrs. J. S. Shelton, on route to his home in Newport News.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Polley entertained quite a number of their friends in their home a few evenings ago for the benefit of Mrs. Polley's band. A handsome shawl, which was donated by Mrs. F. C. Gorman, was raffled off, and Mrs. Watkins was the successful winner. Music, vocal and instrumental, games, recitations and readings were pleasant features of the evening's enjoyment. Refreshments were served in abundance.

Mrs. L. J. Taylor, accompanied by her husband, will leave in a few days for Albemarle county, where they will spend the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Brown have returned from a visit to relatives in Bowling Green, Caroline county.

Mrs. P. J. Reynolds, of New York, who has been visiting for several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Woods, of Twenty-second Street, has returned home.

Mrs. Park Pollard has returned home from a visit to her mother, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Besten, of Richmond.

Mrs. Lella Garner has returned after visiting relatives in the vicinity of Pleasant Hill, where she will spend the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Hinnicutt have moved from Fairmount out near Lakeside. Mr. and Mrs. Hinn